

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of raising serum DHEA levels in an individual, the method comprising: (a) measuring the level of DHEA or DHEA-S in the individual; and (b) applying a therapeutically effective amount of a magnesium-containing composition to the individual's skin, the magnesium-containing composition comprising about 25 to 35 weight percent magnesium chloride, a solvent, a gelling agent and glycerin and further wherein the magnesium-containing composition is substantially free of sodium ions and sulfate ions.

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the gelling agent is a cellulose.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the cellulose is methyl cellulose.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the solvent is water.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the magnesium-containing composition comprises about 60 to 75 weight percent solvent.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the magnesium-containing composition comprises about 0.1 to 5 weight percent gelling agent.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the magnesium-containing composition comprises about 0.1 to 5 weight percent glycerin.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the magnesium-containing composition further comprises one or more additives selected from the group consisting of soaps, perfumes and dyes.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of raising serum DHEA levels in an individual, the method comprising: (a) measuring the level of DHEA or DHEA-S in the individual; and (b) applying a therapeutically effective amount of a magnesium-containing composition to the individual's skin, the magnesium-containing composition comprising about 25 to 35 weight percent magnesium chloride, about 60 to 75 weight percent water, about 0.1 to 5 weight percent methyl cellulose and about 0.1 to 5 weight percent glycerin and further wherein the magnesium-containing composition is substantially free of sodium ions and sulfate ions.

12-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A composition for the transdermal absorption of magnesium ~~comprising consisting of:~~

- (a) about 25 to 35 weight percent magnesium chloride;
- (b) about 60 to 75 weight percent water;
- (c) about 0.1 to 5 weight percent of a gelling agent; and
- (d) about 0.1 to 5 weight percent glycerin

~~wherein the composition is substantially free of sodium ions and sulfate ions.~~

15. (Original) The composition of claim 14, wherein the gelling agent is a cellulose.

16-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising measuring the level of DHEA, DHEA-S or magnesium in the individual ~~prior to~~ after applying the magnesium-containing composition to the individual's skin.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of raising serum DHEA levels in an individual, the method comprising:

- (a) measuring the level of DHEA, DHEA-S or magnesium in the individual; and
- (b) applying a therapeutically effective amount of a magnesium-containing composition to the individual's skin, the magnesium-containing composition ~~comprising~~

consisting of about 25 to 35 weight percent magnesium chloride, a solvent, a gelling agent and glycerin.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the magnesium-containing composition consists essentially of about 25 to 35 weight percent magnesium chloride, a solvent, a gelling agent and glycerin.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the magnesium-containing composition consists essentially of about 25 to 35 weight percent magnesium chloride, about 60 to 75 weight percent water, about 0.1 to 5 weight percent methyl cellulose and about 0.1 to 5 weight percent glycerin.

22. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 14, consisting ~~essentially of~~:

- (a) about 25 to 35 weight percent magnesium chloride;
- (b) about 60 to 75 weight percent water;
- (c) about ~~0.1 to 5~~ 1 to 3 weight percent of a gelling agent; and
- (d) about ~~0.1 to 5~~ 1 to 3 weight percent glycerin.